88. Opening of roads from Kumili to Vandanmettu and from Vandanmettu to Cumbum and the construction of the dispensary building at Kumili.

Mr. Ankur Mira Rowther (Member, Nominated) said that the cardamom now had now to arrange for their produce being carried from Vandanmettu to Cumbum by coolies for want of cart roads. The proposed roads from Kumili to Vandanmettu and from Vandanmettu to Cumbum, besides affording traffic convenience to the ryots, would open up the forests in those localities and thereby re-pay the investment on their construction. A dispensary had already been sanctioned at Kumili, it was not yet opened. He prayed that it should be opened immediately at least in a rented building and that another dispensary should also be opened at Vandanmettu.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

VI—PUBLIC HEALTH.

(1) Sanitation.

89. Sanitation.

Mr. M. K. Narayana Pillai, B. A., Bar-at-Law (Member, Trivandrum taluk) said that he proposed to deal with the reform of the Sanitary Department and the Trivandrum Town Improvement Committee and to suggest certain measures for improving the health of the town of Trivandrum. Dealing with the working of the Sanitary Department, the Member said that the cry of the people was that the department existed in name only and that it did no useful work. An expert full-time Sanitary Officer was at the head of the department. He did not take any interest in promoting the health of the people. Instruction was not imparted to the people as to the causes and the spread of epidemic diseases and the precautionary steps to be taken, by means of occasional pamphlets. Investigations into the causes of the prevalence of certain epidemical diseases in certain localities were not conducted and remedies suggested. The money expended on the establishment of the department was now a mere waste. He said that he was not in favour of the abolition of the department, but would request that the whole should be thoroughly re-organised on the lines he would suggest. The Darbar Physician might be made the *ex-officio* head of the department, as in Mysore, where The junior Surgeon was the *ex-officio* head of the Sanitary Department and Inspector-General of Prisons. He said that many of the members of the Assembly agreed with his proposal and presented a list of their names, with signatures. There should be a hospital or dispensary for each taluk and the medical officer in charge should be made the *ex-officio* sanitary officer for the taluk. He would be responsible for the health of the taluk.

Dewan.—In the case of hospitals or dispensaries where there is only one medical officer, suppose his presence, as sanitary officer, is required in a corner of the taluk and he has also to attend to an urgent medical case at the hospital or elsewhere. How would you meet such a case?

The Member replied that, in most of the hospitals, there would be more than one medical officer. To obviate the difficulty, an Assistant Sanitary Inspector might also be appointed under the medical officer. In case the medical officer found it inconvenient to proceed to the spot as sanitary officer, he might depute the Assistant Sanitary Inspector forthwith and himself proceed to the spot afterwards. A taluk board, consisting of official and non-official members, might also be created, with the medical officer as President. The board might be entrusted with the work of looking after the health of the taluk. The work of vaccination could be conducted under the supervision of the Vaccine Depot Superintendent as of old, also working under the Darbar Physician. The Assistant Sanitary Inspectors working under the medical officers might also push on with the work of vaccination. The District and Assistant Sanitary officers could then be dispensed with. The Member thought that, with the Sanitary Department thus re-organised, the health of the State would considerably improve.

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Coming to the reform of the Trivandrum Town Improvement Com the Member said that the Committee should be made a model for other Comm in the State and it should have a status befitting the capital town. He pro that the Darbar Physician might be the *ex-officio* President of the Committee should be a Vice-President to attend to routine work. The Committee sh consist of the District Magistrate, the Senior Surgeon, the District Judge, the H Sirkar Vakil and a number of non-official members.

Dewan.—I think purely judicial officers are not generally appointed members of municipal corporations and, in certain places, there are rules actually qualifying them from being members.

The Member said that all that he wanted was that some of the impo officers should constitute the Committee in order to enhance its influence. T was no necessity for a high-paid full-time President. Instead of the Hea Officer on a high salary, a Sanitary Inspector with the necessary technical physical qualifications on a much lower salary might be appointed with adva A graduate in medicine was preferable. The Sanitary Inspector should visit nook and corner of the town. He said that such a reform of the Committee enhance its status, while reducing the establishment charges. The money thus sa could be utilized in improving the health of the town. The Government contribut should also be made more liberal.

Among the needs of the town, he said that water supply was the most portant. In that portion of the town which was on a higher level, water failed in wells for two or three months in the year. In the remaining portion, the wate the wells was very bad for health, causing many intestinal troubles. If the Chen Examiner were to examine the water in the wells in the low grounds and direc closure of wells which contained very bad water, it would be a blessing to the he of the town. He next referred to the necessity for effective removal and econ disposal of the waste matter. As a result of the non-removal of night-soil and bish from certain lanes, the sanitation of the town was in a deplorable cond The economic value of the night-soil and rubbish was lost sight of by the Comm They could be converted into excellent manure by dumping night-soil on pre grounds and burning refuses, and sold at a high sum annually. The gutters in streets were not being flushed every day. Arrangements should be made to them both morning and evening. The milk sold in the various parts of the was adulterated with impure water. Cow's milk was seldom sold and buffalo mi injurious to health. He complained against keeping within the Fort a large nu of buffaloes, rendering the locality insanitary. The question of the milk supply in the town should therefore engage the serious attention of the Committee and bye-laws should be passed bringing the milk-vendors under a system of license. The Member said that there must be a rule that dead bodies should be taken out of the town and buried. At present there were several cremation grounds within the town. He also suggested that all the school-children should be examined by medical officers.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

90. Desirability of abolishing the Sanitary Department.

Mr. E. N. Kesava Pillai, B. A. (Member, Kartikapalli taluk) said that his proposal to do away with an existing organisation might seem retrograde, but he con- idered that the Sanitary Department, as at present constituted, was by no means an dispensable part of the administrative machinery from a utilitarian point of view. e department was constituted some twenty years ago, not on any proved necessity; whatever necessity might have then existed had only decreased during the recent rs by the constitution of as many as 19 Town Improvement Committees, ich attended to the sanitation of the urban areas in the State. The expenditure of department showed no reduction in spite of the contraction of its jurisdiction and ons in those towns. The department was now manned by a Sanitary Commissioner, District Sanitary Officers and eleven Assistant Sanitary Officers, with a

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